

News

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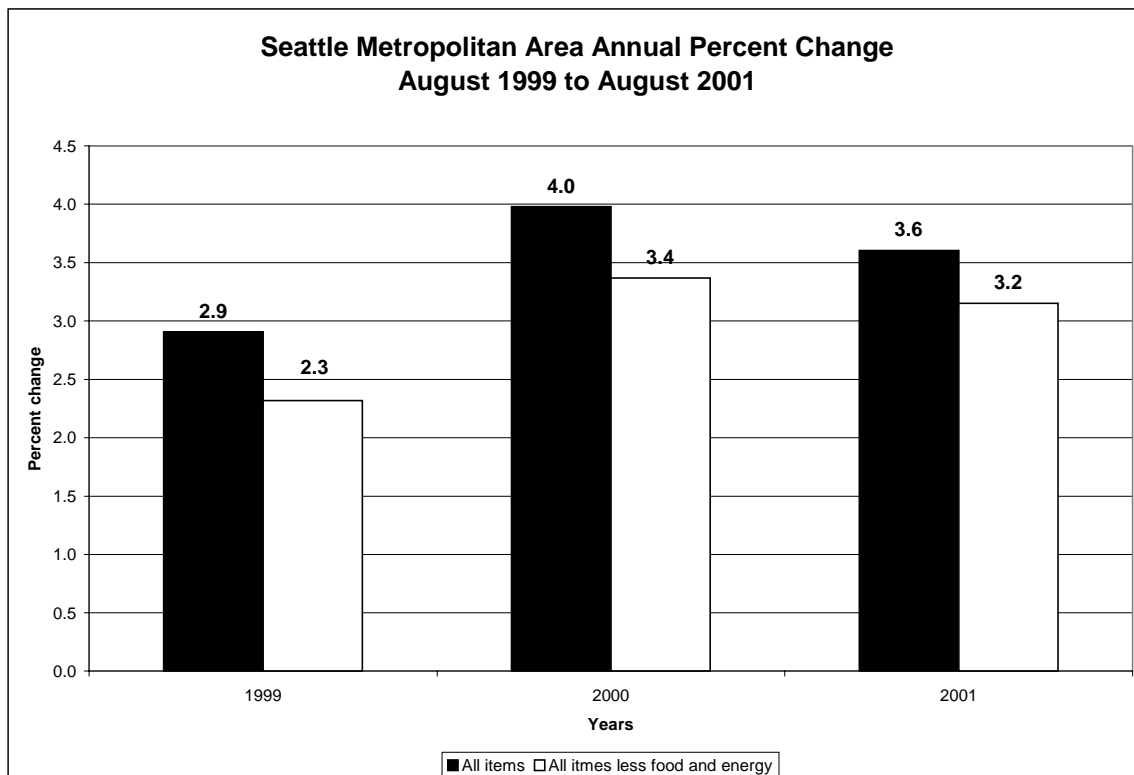
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FOR RELEASE:

Tuesday, September 18, 2001

SEATTLE-TACOMA-BREMERTON AREA PRICES ADVANCE 0.3 PERCENT FROM JUNE TO AUGUST

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported consumer prices in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area increased 0.3 percent for the two months ending August, after moving up 1.1 percent from April to June. According the Bureau's Regional Commissioner, Stanley P. Stephenson, advances in shelter expenditures provided significant upward pressure to the all items index over the two-month period. The overall price level increased 2.8 percent year to date, compared to 3.4 percent for the first eight months of 2000. During the past 12 months, the all items index increased 3.6 percent while the all items less food and energy index increased 3.2 percent. Local area Consumer Price Index (CPI) data are not seasonally adjusted.



The housing index advanced 1.3 percent from June to August, matching the gain from April to June. The largest impact on housing came from a 1.5 percent increase in shelter expenditures during the latest two-month period. Within shelter, rent of primary residence advanced 1.0 percent, while owners' equivalent rent of primary residence index increased 1.5 percent from two months ago. The fuels and utilities component advanced 2.0 percent since June. Prices for electricity increased 3.9 percent for the past two months and reflected a gain of 25.6 percent over the year. The index for utility natural gas edged down 0.2 percent over the past two months, but measured a substantial rise of 58.9 percent since August 2000. Prices for household furnishings and operations decreased 0.6 percent since June, but are up 5.4 percent over the past 12 months. Compared to a year ago, overall housing expenditures have advanced 6.8 percent.

Prices for apparel increased 2.9 percent for the two months ending August, following 1.1 percent gain during the prior two-month period. Compared to a year ago, apparel prices are 2.3 percent higher.

The medical care index climbed 1.5 percent this latest two-month period, following a moderate 0.2 percent increase during the previous period. Over the year, the medical care category rose 4.5 percent.

The education and communication index advanced 0.4 percent over the past two months and measured 1.3 percent above its level from 12 months ago.

The transportation index declined 1.3 percent since June, partially offsetting the 1.4 percent advance in the previous two-month period. Gasoline prices fell 5.9 percent during the recent two months, as a result, Seattle area consumers paid 7.3 percent below what they did a year ago. The private transportation index decreased 1.1 from June to August and showed a decline of 0.6 percent during the past year. Overall transportation prices have declined 0.5 percent since August 2000.

Prices paid for food and beverages moved down 1.3 percent during the past two months, but are up 3.9 percent over the year. Since June, the food at home index fell 2.5 percent, but the food away from home index increased 1.0 percent. During the same period, prices for alcoholic beverages declined 1.4 percent, yet measured 1.3 percent higher than a year ago. Over the past 12 months, the food at home index and the food away from home index showed gains of 4.4 and 3.5 percent, respectively.

Since June, the other goods and services index, which includes tobacco and smoking products, declined 0.5 percent. Nevertheless, the category registered 2.6 percent higher than last year's level.

The recreation index inched down 0.1 percent from June to August and is 1.5 percent lower than 12 months ago.

The August 0.3 percent increase brought the All Items, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area to 186.8 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$186.80 in August 2001.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	June 2001	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2000	June 2001	July 2001
Expenditure category						
All items	186.3	-	186.8	3.6	0.3	-
All items (1967=100)	567.8	-	569.6	-	-	-
Food and beverages	182.9	-	180.6	3.9	-1.3	-
Food	183.7	-	181.3	4.1	-1.3	-
Food at home	185.0	182.4	180.4	4.4	-2.5	-1.1
Food away from home	182.9	-	184.7	3.5	1.0	-
Alcoholic beverages	175.7	-	173.3	1.3	-1.4	-
Housing	196.1	-	198.7	6.8	1.3	-
Shelter	213.1	214.3	216.4	5.1	1.5	1.0
Rent of primary residence (1).....	203.0	203.8	205.1	5.8	1.0	0.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2)	218.3	219.3	221.6	5.0	1.5	1.0
Fuels and utilities	154.8	-	157.9	24.2	2.0	-
Fuels	157.8	161.5	161.3	33.3	2.2	-0.1
Gas (piped) and electricity (1).....	190.4	195.5	195.4	34.4	2.6	-0.1
Electricity (1).....	189.1	196.5	196.5	25.6	3.9	0.0
Utility natural gas service (1).....	160.3	160.3	160.0	58.9	-0.2	-0.2
Household furnishings and operations	178.2	-	177.2	5.4	-0.6	-
Apparel	122.8	-	126.3	2.3	2.9	-
Transportation	163.6	-	161.5	-0.5	-1.3	-
Private transportation	167.7	-	165.9	-0.6	-1.1	-
Motor fuel	170.2	168.0	160.2	-7.2	-5.9	-4.6
Gasoline (all types)	173.5	171.3	163.3	-7.3	-5.9	-4.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular (3).....	189.5	186.4	178.0	-7.6	-6.1	-4.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (3) (4).....	134.8	134.0	127.0	-7.2	-5.8	-5.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium (3).....	158.6	157.3	150.2	-6.4	-5.3	-4.5
Medical care	255.9	-	259.8	4.5	1.5	-
Recreation (5).....	99.8	-	99.7	-1.5	-0.1	-
Education and communication (5).....	106.0	-	106.4	1.3	0.4	-
Other goods and services	276.9	-	275.5	2.6	-0.5	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	June 2001	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2000	June 2001	July 2001
Commodity and service group						
All items	186.3	-	186.8	3.6	0.3	-
Commodities	161.2	-	159.6	1.4	-1.0	-
Commodities less food and beverages	149.5	-	148.4	-0.1	-0.7	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	151.6	-	150.6	-0.3	-0.7	-
Durables	147.9	-	146.6	0.2	-0.9	-
Services	210.3	-	212.7	5.2	1.1	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	182.9	-	183.3	3.6	0.2	-
All items less shelter	176.8	-	176.3	3.0	-0.3	-
Commodities less food	150.4	-	149.2	-0.1	-0.8	-
Nondurables	166.9	-	165.2	1.8	-1.0	-
Nondurables less food	152.9	-	151.8	-0.2	-0.7	-
Services less rent of shelter (2)	212.3	-	213.7	5.2	0.7	-
Services less medical care services	206.4	-	208.7	5.2	1.1	-
Energy	164.9	165.5	161.3	8.6	-2.2	-2.5
All items less energy	190.0	-	190.9	3.4	0.5	-
All items less food and energy	191.5	-	193.0	3.2	0.8	-

1 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

2 Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

3 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

4 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

5 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.